

Dear Commissioners:

Mr. Lowrance's petition, RM-10869, provides many valid reasons why morse code examination should stay. I feel morse code examination has been a very important aspect of amateur radio and should be continued as requirement for HF access. As the VE team leader for a local radio club, I have found most examinees that have passed Element 1, have taken the time to actually study theory that is required for higher class licenses and follow better operating practices, instead of just memorizing the question pool like every 1 out of 2 technician class applicants that come in for a test. Morse code is a skill that can't be memorized like the question pool, and some people just don't want to spend more than the fee days that it takes to memorize the question pool. Taking a code test at 5 wpm requires a little time and practice, but is not an impossible task for most people. Mr. Lowrance is correct on the ability to send and receive morse code is more important than the speed of it. I have made slow speed CW contacts that were impossible to make on SSB. Stating this, I do object to raising the Extra Class code speed to 13 wpm.

I support petition RM-10869 with the exception of the Extra Class code speed.

Respectfully,

Mark A. Skowronski, K9MQ